

# News Release



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Darren Rogers  
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services  
Churchill Downs Racetrack  
(502) 636-4461 (office)  
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)  
[Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com](mailto:Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com)

## **STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF KENTUCKY DERBY-WINNING TRAINER JOHN WARD**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, April 25, 2021)** – The following is a statement from Churchill Downs Racetrack President Mike Anderson on the passing of Kentucky Derby winning-trainer John T. Ward Jr., who died Saturday at age 75.

“John Ward Jr. personified the phrase ‘Kentucky hard-boot.’ He was a third-generation horseman who worked tirelessly throughout his career, culminating with service as Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. The dedication to his craft as a trainer was amplified 20 years ago when he patiently prepared Monarchos to a memorable victory in the 2001 Kentucky Derby. Our hearts and prayers will be with Ward’s family and friends throughout Derby Week as they grieve during this difficult time.”

– Churchill Downs Racetrack President Mike Anderson.

## **ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK**

Churchill Downs Racetrack (“CDRT”), the world’s most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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